

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Offender Reentry Program

Purpose

The [Department of Corrections](#) (DOC) applies for and receives grants from the [U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) to provide reentry services in both Institutions and Community-Based Corrections (CBC) District Departments. This budget unit is used to administer the grants by processing offender reentry grant receipts and expenditures.

The majority of the funding received by the DOC is from the BJA under the 2008 [Second Chance Act](#) (Public Law No.110-199). This federal law provides grants to state and local governments as well as nonprofit organizations to provide transition services as offenders are released from prison and return to local communities. The purpose is to reduce recidivism by enhancing services for offenders released from state prisons, local jails, or juvenile detention centers.

Funding

The DOC has concentrated on administering grants that provide services to offenders with high recidivism rates, such as those with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders. The DOC has received several reentry grants that flow through this budget unit. The DOC received a \$592,495 multiyear grant award that provided treatment services in [Black Hawk County](#) (First CBC District Department) for high-risk male offenders with co-occurring disorders. The grant period started in October 2011 and ended in September of 2014. The DOC contracted with the First CBC District Department, Spectrum Health Services, and the Black Hawk County Grundy Mental Health Center for services, and with the [Department of Human Rights, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division \(CJJPD\)](#) for program evaluation services.

The DOC received a \$2.5 million multiyear grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice's Second Chance Act grant funds. The Second Chance Act Demonstration Field Experiment is designed to focus on parole officer training and interventions with offenders on parole, based on a crime-desistance framework. The project proposed a randomized control trial to test effectiveness of training and coaching in reducing recidivism. Funds currently support 10.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in the [Fifth CBC District Department](#). The original grant period started in October 2012 but implementation was delayed. Funding was extended through June 2016.

The DOC received a \$177,706 grant from the BJA for a pilot project, Cross Boundary Supervision, that will allow the DOC and [Eyerly Ball Mental Health Services](#) to share patient/offender mental health information. The grant period was from October 1, 2014, through March 31, 2016. The goal is to share data between the Iowa Corrections Offender Network (ICON – the DOC's electronic offender management system) and Eyerly Ball's database. The grant award will be used for programming costs between the two electronic databases. Successful implementation of this project permits mental health diagnosis and treatment information to be seamlessly shared between the DOC and its service providers as the offender progresses through the corrections system (while on probation, parole, or in prison).

The DOC received a \$3.0 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs through the BJA for three years for the Statewide Recidivism Reduction Initiative (SRRI). The DOC partnered with the Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy ([ODCP](#)) in the grant application and implementation of the grant award. The DOC is focusing on building partnerships with state and local government agencies and nonprofit entities to build capacity and sustainability. In addition to building partnerships, the DOC will be focusing on building infrastructure around recidivism reduction strategies.

Refer to the [Offender Reentry](#) tab on the DOC website for additional information regarding the DOC offender reentry efforts and initiatives.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [904](#)
[201](#) Iowa Administrative Code

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More Information

Department of Corrections: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/>

U.S. Department of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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